

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Boaler this week. She has been with Ashwood Park for 19 years and we sincerely thank her for all the hard work she has put in supporting the hundreds of children she has worked with along the way. We all wish her all the very best with her new endeavours!

We break up for half term on Friday October 23rd. There will be an INSET day on Monday 2nd November so the children return to school on Tuesday November 3rd.

The Flu inoculation "Catch-Up" session is Tuesday 3rd November.

Parents' consultation evenings will be on Tuesday 10th November and Wednesday 11th November. Details to follow.

Mr Butler and Mr Perkes

Sign of the week is 'Museum'



1 st	Niamh
2 nd	Emily
3 rd	Ethan

Next Week's Menu

Monday

Chicken Gyro Pitta
Chicken Nuggets (H)
Authentic Pitta Pizza (V)
Pasta or Mexican Rice
Mini Doughnut

Tuesday

Tandoori Wrap
Crispy Quorn Dippers (V)
Potato Wedges
Chocolate Brownies

Wednesday

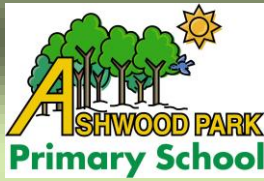
Roast Chicken (H option)
Cheesy Cauliflower &
Broccoli Bake (V)
Stuffing & Gravy
Mashed & Roast Potatoes
Muffin Selection

Thursday

Sausage Roll (Ve)
Wholemeal Cheese &
Tomato Pizza (V)
Chips
Vanilla Iced Sponge

Friday





Newsletter

2nd October 2026

Early Years

This week your child has received their first reading book! The books have been carefully chosen to support the phonics that your child is learning in school. Some words can be sounded out and blended using their phonics knowledge, while others are words that children need to learn and remember by sight. Some children have wordless books to practise their story retelling skills.

Please practise reading the book with your child as often as possible. Re-reading the same book several times is really beneficial as it helps children become more confident, fluent and accurate readers.

Please record in your child's reading record each time you read together and add any comments about how they have got on.

Children will receive Dojos for reading at home when this is recorded in their Reading Record. We will listen to your child read on their designated reading day and will change their book when we feel they are ready to move on. Thank you for your support in helping your child develop a love of reading and build strong early reading skills.

Key Stage One

This week in Key Stage One we have been working on place value and partitioning numbers. The children have created their own top number game giving clues about the numbers using their knowledge of tens and ones. We have also been writing our own characters for our stories based on the Squirrels that Squabbled. In art we have been creating portraits using a range of different shapes.

Next week we will be looking at a new story 'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson.

Key Stage Two

It has been another lovely week across KS2, with a calm and purposeful working environment evident throughout the school. Our Year 3 and 4 children have been enjoying their science lessons on forces and magnets. They have been exploring which materials are magnetic and non-magnetic, making predictions and thinking carefully about how they could test their ideas fairly. In Years 5 and 6, the children have continued their fascinating work on space, developing their understanding of the Earth, Sun and Moon and exploring the causes of night and day. It has been wonderful to see the children showing curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and engaging so enthusiastically with their learning. Well done, KS2!

RBDC

Acorns have continued their learning on materials. They have had to identify objects and their materials. In Maths, we have been looking at greater than and less than. In DT, we have been labelling fruits and discussing the differences.

Conkers has been immersing themselves in our experience lesson of the storm whale the children imagined they were washing the whale and we discussed lots of descriptive vocabulary, they had a fantastic time exploring our 'problem' of our narrative book. Maths we have been looking at number lines in our place value topic.

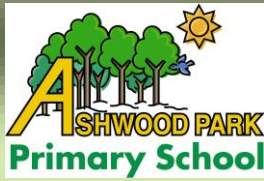
In Science, the children went on a fact-finding hunt to discover information about the different planets, we can't wait to learn more about Space!

NUMBER DETECTIVE

Use the clues to find all the possible 3-digit numbers.

- 1 I am a 3-digit number.
- 2 My hundreds digit is less than my ones digit.
- 3 The sum of my digits is 8.
- 4 One of my digits is 0.
- 5 All my digits are different.

What numbers could I be?



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Diary Dates 2026

Thursday 22nd October

Monster Mash Disco

Friday 23rd October

Break up for Half Term

Monday 2nd November

INSET –Closed to Children

Tuesday 10th November

Parents Evening

Wednesday 11th Nov

Parents Evening

Thursday 3rd December

PTA Christmas Film Night

Wednesday 9th Dec

Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church

Friday 18th December

Break up for Christmas

***Please note INSET day has changed from 19th October to 2nd November**

Diary Dates 2027

Monday 4th January

INSET Day—Closed to Children

Tuesday 5th January

Children Return to School

Friday 12th February

Break up for Half Term

Monday 22nd February

Children Return to School

Thursday 25th March

Break up for Easter Holidays

Monday 12th April

Children Return to School

Thursday 6th May

Local Elections—Closed to Children

Friday 7th May

INSET Day—Closed to Children

Monday 10th May

SATS Week

Friday 28th May

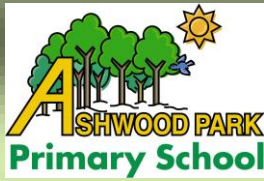
Break up for Half Term

Monday 7th June

Children Return to School

Wednesday 21st July

Last Day of Term



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2nd October 2026

Dinner Dates

The following staff will be in the lunch hall:

Mr Dimmock, Miss Harris —Monday

Miss Benson—Friday

It would be wonderful to see as many children as possible joining the teachers in enjoying a school dinner. We hope this helps make lunchtime a highlight of the day!

Smoking and Vaping

The smoking of cigarettes and the use of vapes is not permitted anywhere on the School site.

Dogs

Dogs are not allowed on the School site.

Nut Allergy

We have several children in School with a severe nut allergy, please do not send any food that contains nuts into School.

Breakfast and After School Club (OSCA)

Please note that breakfast food is served before **8.15 am**. If you are new to OSCA or haven't been for quite some time please pop to the School Office to complete the essential paperwork.

Fruit

Please could all soft round fruit (eg grapes, strawberries, cherry tomatoes) be cut into quarters before sending into School, to avoid being a choking risk.

Emails

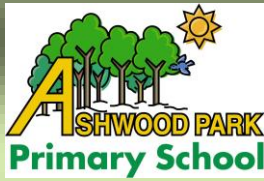
Please note, class email addresses will be removed after October half term. Class Dojo, the School Info email address and Arbor will be used for all communication instead.

Privacy Notice

Please take a moment to read our [Privacy Notice](#).

Facebook

Do remember to take a look at the School's [Facebook](#) page.



Newsletter

2nd October 2026

Praise Assembly

Children who gained badges and certificates this week deserve our special congratulations:

RBM Hedgehogs – Sophia

RR Foxes – Carys

1/2B Squirrels – Laila

1/2JB Moles – Tymoteusz

2W Badgers – Evie

3/4D Chestnut – Niya

3/4H Elder – Millie & Carter

3/4R Oak – Turner & Roxy

5D Beech – Amaar

5/6BB Rowan – Finley & Esmail

5/6E Holly – Chloe & Grace



Starting primary school in September 2027

Why not apply for a place online?

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 they will be due to start primary school in September 2027.

You **MUST** complete an application form either online at www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions or by completing an application form from your home local authority by **15 JANUARY 2027**. You can include five school preferences on the application; there is nothing to gain by only putting one preference.

Applications will be available from **1 October 2026**.

Benefits of applying online

- E-mail decision received by 2pm on day of offer
- It's quick and easy to use
- You can apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- There's no risk that your application will be lost in the post
- You will get email confirmation that your application has been received
- It's safe and secure

The online system will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from 1 October 2026 until the closing date for applications on **15 January 2027**.

Please note: Even if your child already attends a school nursery or has an older sibling at school, do not assume that your child will automatically gain a place at that school. This is a common misconception and often the biggest cause of disappointment for parents who believe otherwise.

For further information please contact Dudley School Admissions Service on **0300 555 2345**.





Starting secondary school in September 2027

Why not apply for a place online?

If your child is due to start secondary school in 2027 then you will have to apply for a school place before 31 October 2026.

You **MUST** complete an application form either online at www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions or by completing the application form provided by your home local authority. You can include six school preferences on the application form; there is nothing to gain by only putting one preference.

Benefits of applying online

- E-mail decision received by 2pm on day of offer
- It's quick and easy to use
- You can apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- There's no risk that your application will be lost in the post
- You will get email confirmation that your application has been received
- It's safe and secure

The online system will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from 1 September 2026 until the closing date for applications on 31 October 2026.

You should not assume that your child will get a place at a secondary school without you having to apply, even if you have an older child already attending the same school. This is a common misconception and often the biggest cause of disappointment for parents who believe otherwise.

For further information please contact Dudley School Admissions Service on 0300 555 2345.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with this information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VGT247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipol.app/about/privacy.html>

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**National
Trust**



Halloween Illumination Event

Holy Austin Rock Houses

Halloween Illuminations

23, 24, 29 & 30 October
from 5.30pm

As darkness falls, the Rock Houses glow with a magical light. Create a wand, meet Nanny the White Witch, hear spooky stories by the fire and enjoy delicious homemade treats... if you dare.



Fright Night

31 October from 6pm
Recommended for 12 yrs+

A Halloween experience filled with wonder and mischief, expect an extra dose of thrills, chilling surprises, and spooky fun for those brave enough to face the unexpected.



Lights No Frights

25 October from 6pm

Enjoy the wonder of the Rock Houses illuminated without any of the halloween antics or spooks. Walk round and just enjoy the tranquil atmosphere & see the house in a new light.



To book scan the QR codes or visit the website
nationaltrust.org.uk/kinver-edge-and-the-rock-houses



The poster features a light blue background decorated with various Halloween-themed illustrations: pumpkins, ghosts, and autumn leaves. In the top left corner is the 'Reflexions' logo, which includes a stylized sun and the word 'Reflexions'. In the top right corner is the 'NHS Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust' logo. The central text is arranged in a friendly, inviting manner, with the title 'SPOOK YOUR WORRIES AWAY' in large, bold, brown letters. Below the title, the word 'Workshop' is written in a smaller, brown font. The dates and times for the two sessions are listed in a light blue rounded rectangle. The first session is on Wednesday 28th October from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Dudley North Family Hub. The second session is on Thursday 29th October from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Halesowen Family Hub. An orange starburst graphic on the left side of the poster indicates that the workshop is suitable for 'KS1 & KS2'. At the bottom, a line of text provides contact information for signing up, with the email address 'bchft.reflexions@nhs.net' highlighted in orange. The bottom of the poster is decorated with more pumpkins, leaves, and a ghost holding a pink heart.

Join Reflexions for our

SPOOK YOUR WORRIES AWAY

Workshop

KS1 & KS2

Wednesday 28th October
9:00am-1:00pm
Dudley North Family Hub, Bayer Street,
Coseley, Dudley, WV14 9DS

Thursday 29th October
9:00am-1:00pm
Halesowen Family Hub, Lye-By-pass,
Lye, Stourbridge, DY9 8H

To sign up or for more information please
email bchft.reflexions@nhs.net



Are you looking for a
Reception
place for September 2027?

Would you like to have a tour of our school
and the opportunity to ask questions?

Following dates available:

-  Thursday 8th October
-  Thursday 15th October
-  Friday 16th October
-  Monday 19th October
-  9.15am or 4.00pm

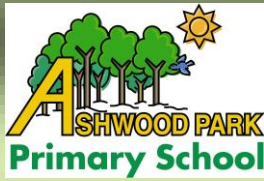
Nursery provision 

Forest School 

Breakfast Club from 7.30am 

After School Club until 6pm 

 Please call or email to book your space
01384 818545 / info@ashwood.dudley.sch.uk 



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